

THE
DECLARATION
OF HIS
EXCELLENCIE

The Lord Generall

FAIRFAX,

AND

His Generall Councell of Officers.

SHEWING

The Grounds and Reasons of the Armies advance towards
the City of LONDON, and their Resolution and
Proposals thereupon.

BY the Appointment of His Excellency the Lord Fairfax,
Lord Generall, and His Generall Councell of Officers, held
at Windsor, Nov. 30. 1648.

Signed,

JOHN RUSHWORTH, Secr.

ALSO,

His Excellencies Letter and Summons to the Right Hono-
rable the Lord Major, Read and debated at the Councell
Table in Guild Hal, Friday Decemb. 1. 1648.

Signed,

T. FAIRFAX.

Wherunto is annexed,

*The Answer and Resolution of the Lord Major, Aldermen, and
Common-councell of the City of London thereupon,*

LONDON, Printed for GEORGE HORTON, 1648.

~~Page 64 of 203~~

11/10/2010 10:11 AM

2010-2011-2012-2013-2014

[illegible]

1952

1950

1135
429
25

1135-
47.9
25



THE
DECLARATION
OF

His Excellency the Lord Gen. *Fairfax*, and his General
Council of Officers, shewing the grounds of
the Armies advance towards the City
of *London*.

BEing full of sad apprehensions concerning the
danger and evill of the Treaty with the *King*,
and of any accommodation with him, or restitu-
tion of him thereupon, We did by our late Remon-
strance upon the Reasons and Grounds therein expres-
sed, make our application thereby unto the present
House of Commons, that the dangerous evill of that
way might be avoided, and the peace of the *Kingdome*
setled upon more righteous, safe and hopefull grounds,
viz. a more equall dispensing of Justice and Mercy in
relation to things done or suffered in the late wars, and
the establishing of the future Government of this *King-*

A 2

dom

upon a safe succession and equall Constitution of
Parliaments, and that (for the ending of present, and
avoiding of future Differences) to be Satisfied by an
Agreement and Subscription of the people therunto.
Which things we pressed in the way of Reason and
Persuasion only, that they might be duly and crimi-
nally considered. But to our grieve we find, in stead of
any Satisfaction or a reasonable answer thereto, they
are wholly rejected, without any consideration of
what ever Reason or Justice might be in the things
set forth or propounded therein; for what lesse can
be understood, when the things propounded were
mainly for the avoidance of evils appearing in the
Treaty with the King: And seeing the prevailing part
of those, to whom we did apply, to have as it were
their eyes wilfully shut, and eares stopd against any
thing Of Light or Reason offered to them, we find no
place left for our former charitable or hopesfull ap-
prehensions; concerning their error in such evill
wayes; but remaining fully assured of the danger
and destructivenesse thereof, as to all those publique
ends for which they were intrusted, and also of the just
advantage and necessity which lie in the things we have
propounded and insist on, we now see nothing left, to
which their engaging and persisting in such wayes,
and rejection of these better things propounded, can
rationally be attributed: lesse then a treacherous or
corrupt neglect of, and Apostacy from the Publique
Trust reposed in them, although we could wish from
our soules, we might yet find the contrary. ^{non quibus}
Therefore it is our hearts desire, and shall be our
endeavour, that so much, both of the matter and form
of the present Parliamentary Authority may be pre-
served, as can be safe, or will be usefull to these ends,
untill a just and full Constitution thereof, both for

matter and form (futable to the publique ends, it serves for) can be introduced.

And therefore first, it should be great rejoycing (if God saw it good) that the majority of the present House of Commons were become sensible of the evil and distructivenesse of their late way, and would resolvedly and vigorously apply themselves to the speedy execution of Justice, with the righting and easing of the oppressed people, and to a just settlement of the Kingdome upon such foundations as have been propounded by us, and others for that purpose, and would for the speedier and surer prosecution of these things exclude from Communication in their Councils, all such corrupt and Apostarized Members as have appeared hitherto, but to obstruct and hinder such matter of Justice, Safety, and publique interest, and to pervert their Councils a contrary way, and have therein so shamefully both falsified, and forstied their Trust,

But however if God shall not see it good (to vouchsafe that mercy to them and the Kingdome) we shall secondly desire, That so many of them as God hath kept upright, and shall touch with a just sence of those things, would by protestation or otherwise, acquit themselves from such breach of Trust, and approve their faithfulness, by withdrawing from those that persist in the guilt thereof, & take such a posture, whereby they may speedily & effectually prosecute those necessary and publique ends, without such interruptions, Diversions, or depravations of their Councils from the rest, to their endlesse trouble, and hazard of the Kingdome as formerly, and for so many of them, whose hearts God shall stir up thus to do.

We shall therein, in this case of extremity, looke upon them as persons having materially the chief Trust of the Kingdom remaining in them, and though not a formal standing power to be continued in them, or drawn into ordinary Presidents; yet the best and most rightfull that can be had, as the present state and exigence of affairs now stand; And we shall accordingly owne them, adhere to them, and be guided by them in their faithfull prosecution of that trust, in order vnto, and until the introducing of a more full and formal power in a just Representative to be speedy endeavoured.

Now yet further to take away all jealousies in relation to our selves, which might with hold or discurse any honest members from this courage, as we have the witness of God in our hearts, that in these proceedings we do not seek, but even resolve we wil not take advantages to our selves, either in point of profit or power; and that if God did open to us a way, wherein with honesty and faithfullnesse to the publique Interest, & good people engaged for us, we might presently be discharged, so as we might not in our present Employments look on, and be necessary to, yea supporters of the Parliament, in the present corrupt, oppressive and destructive proceedings, wee should with rejoycing, and without more ado embrace such a discharge, rather then interpose in these things to our owne vast trouble and hazard; so if we could but obtain a rational assurance for the effectuall prosecuting of these things, we shall give any proportionable assistance on our parts, concerning our laying down of arms, when, and as we should be required.

But for the present as the case stands, we apprehend

our selves obliged in duty to God, this Kingdome; and good men therein, to approve our utmost abilities in all honest wayes, for the avoiding of these great evils which we have remonstrated, and for prosecution of the good things we have propounded; and also that such persons who were the inviters of the late invasion from Scotland, the Instigators and encouragers of the late insurrections within this Kingdome, and (those forcible wayes failing) have still pursued those wicked designs by treacherous and corrupt counells, may be brought to publike justice, according to their severall demerits. For all these ends we are now drawing up with the Army to London, there to follow providence as God shall clear our way.

By the Appointment of His Excellency, the Lord Gen. Fairfax, and his Generall Councell of Officers held at Windsor, Nov. 30. 1648.

Signed,

John Rushworth Secr.

A Letter sent from the Lord Gen. Fairfax, to the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Common-councell of the City of London.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

BEing upon an immediate advance with the Army towards London, we thought good hereby to give you notice thereof. For the ground and necessity leading us hereto, we refer you to our late Remonstrance, and to our latter Declaration concerning the same. We have onely this further

ther to add, That as we are far from the least thought of plunder or other wrong to your City, or any the places adjoining which we hope your former experience of us will give you cause enough to credit us so for the better prevention of any disorder in the Souldiery, or of any abuse or inconvenience to the Inhabitants in the quartering of the souldiery at private houses, we earnestly desire, That you would take a present course for the supply of Money to pay these forces, while we shall be necessitated to stay there, upon which we assure you, we shall so dispose of them into great and void houses about the City as much as may be possible, as that few or none of the Inhabitants shall be troubled with quartering of any soldiers at all: And for this purpose, we desire that 40000. li. may be forthwith provided upon the security of your arrears, to be ready to be paid out to the Forces to morrow night if possible: And we shall be ready to receive from you any intimations for the further prevention of hurt or inconveniences to the City in this business, I remain

Your most assured friend and servant,
Windfor 30. Nov.

1648.

T. FAIRFAX.

Guildhall, London, Decem. 1. 1648.

The Lord Major, Aldermen, and Common-council, having seriously debated the particulars specified in the fore-going Letter, upon mature deliberation thereon, finds them to be of great consequence in reference to the City of London, and therefore for the safety and preservation thereof, resolved to satisfie his Excellencies desires touching the sum of 40000. li. but withall desire, that the Army may be remanded back, and that the City may be free from quartering of the Souldery.

F I N I S.

